

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SBR.217
Historic Name:	Wood, Abigail - Mitchell, Michael House
Common Name:	Whittier, Benjamin House - Oak Knoll Kennels
Address:	45-47 Oregon Rd
City/Town:	Southborough
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	16-003
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Agricultural; Business Office; Kennel; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Brick



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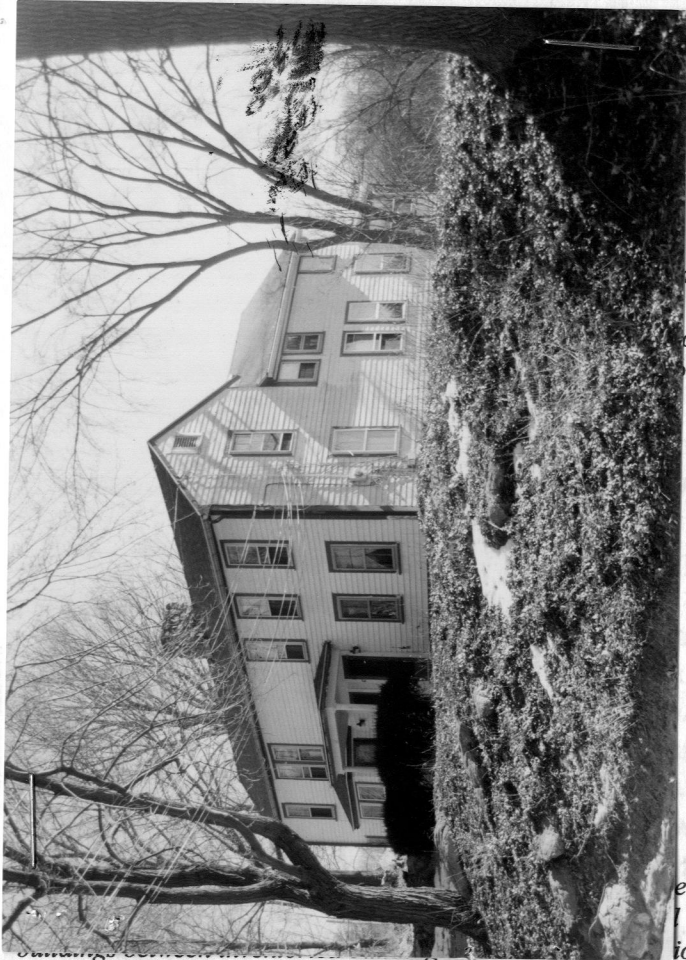
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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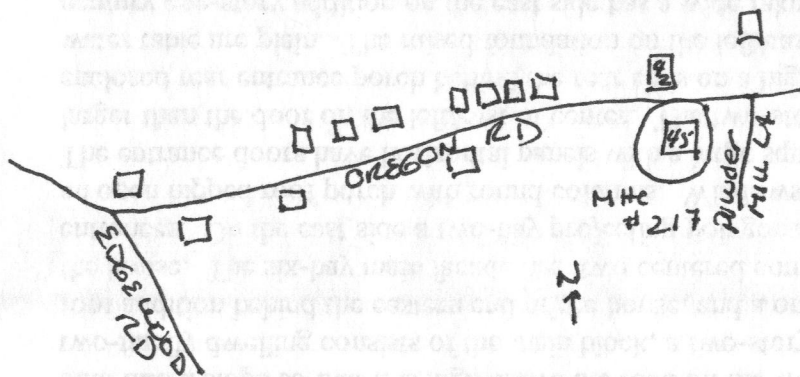
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FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Schuler/Forbes

Organization Southborough Historical Commission

Date (month / year) 3/00

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

16-003

Marlboro

217

Town SOUTHBOROUGH

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 45-47 Oregon Road

Historic Name Abigail Wood House

Uses: Present residential (two-family)/commercial

Original residential

Date of Construction ca. 1850

Source maps / visual analysis

Style/Form double house/no style

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim wood clapboards/wood trim

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures large altered shingled barn with loft offices and attached sheds at rear of property, two-car garage converted to office, on concrete with 2/2 windows, and mid 20th c. doors, kennels

Major Alterations (with dates) rear addition with roof raised and extended, side ell with exposed rafters, projecting bay, open entrance porch - early 20thc.

Condition fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date n/a

Acreage 3 acres

Setting Elevated above road opposite 18th c. dwelling, on bend in rural road, new construction east of property, fenced with kennel runs extending from buildings for Southborough-Kennels.

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2000

MASS. HIST. COMM

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The double house is on a three-acre parcel, which is part of a nineteenth century 40-acre farm to which land was added to become a 50-acre farm in the early 1900s. Retaining its rural setting the two-story side-gable house is built into a slope so that it is high above the road on the west side and built into the slope on the east side. The two-family dwelling consists of the main block, a two-story rear ell behind the western end of the house, a raised roof addition behind the eastern end of the house, and a one-story side addition extending from the eastern end of the house. The six-bay main facade has two centered entrance doors and two bays on each side of the entrances. On the east side a two-bay projecting polygonal bay has been added. At the center entrances there is an open hipped roof porch with round columns. Windows have two-over-two sash and are set in plain frames. The entrance doors have horizontal panels with a large square light each. The door on the right/west of center is larger than the door on the left/east of center. The two-story rear ell is on a raised brick foundation while the enclosed rear entrance porch behind the rear ell is on a high stone and mortar foundation. Corner posts and water table are plain. The raised foundation on the left/east side is also stone and mortar. The early twentieth century one-story addition on the east side has a wide rake with exposed rafters ends. The house has a single stone and mortar centered chimney.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Oregon Road is one of the more remote roads of Southborough, yet one of the earlier roads that also had a southeast fork from this property towards the town line of Ashland that was discontinued after 1830. Oregon Road connects the southern part of Fayville (after passing through part of Ashland) to roads connecting to Cordaville. Only four or five dwellings were located in this area by 1831. There was a house on this southern side of Oregon Road by 1831 but it appears to have been east of this property, which is first shown on the 1857 map. First known owner was A. Wood, probably referring to **Abigail Wood**, widow of Lambert Wood (1808-1840) whom she had married in 1830 and had lived at the Wood family homestead, 42 Oregon Road. In 1860 Abigail Wood(s) was assessed for \$900 worth of real estate. By 1870 the property was owned by a **Mitchell**. Michael Mitchell was assessed in 1870 and again in 1881 for a modest house, barn and farm and by 1898 his widow lived across the street at 42 Oregon Road. Further research is necessary to determine who the first owners of this property were. The late nineteenth century owner, **Benjamin Whittier**, had the property listed in Flora Whittier's name including a house, two barns, a hen house and a 41-acre farm. By the 1920s this was the **Oak Knoll Kennels**, a boarding kennel run by Robert H. Johnson. The kennel advertised "large shady runs on 50-acre farm on Oregon Road" with veterinary supervision. Also Johnson was a breeder of Great Danes. Today the property continues to be run as a boarding kennel called Southborough Kennels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Assessors Reports: 1860, 1870, 1881, 1894, 1897.

Atlases/Maps: 1857 (A. Wood), 1870 (Mitchell), 1898 (B. Whittier)

Directories: 1900, 1903, 1905, 1918, 1925.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
SOUTHBOROUGH 45 OREGON RD.

Area(s) Form No.

	217
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☒ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Schuler/Forbes, Consultants
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Lambert Wood and Abigail Wood Houses are eligible for listing on the National Register as a small district that shows a rural setting of late eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century dwellings associated with the same family for a period of time. Each has undergone some changes but together may retain enough integrity of location, design, setting, association and feeling to convey a sense of the rural agricultural past of this southeastern part of Southborough.

(Attach photo here)



Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:

Pre 1870

Architect

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added to 2 family

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboards Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/Side Ornament

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: double entrance

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

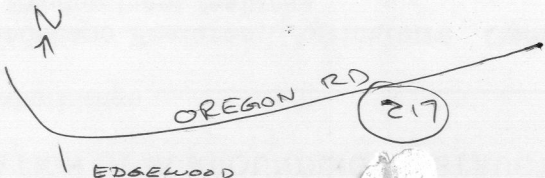
6. Footage of structure from street
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo # 6-20 Date 1971

SEE REVERSE SIDE



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings _____
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features _____
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern
Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

ROOF: 3 3 4
STORIES: 1 3 4
CHIMNEYS: 3 3 4
BOOR: High
MATT COVER: wood
FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: high regular form material

4. DESCRIPTION

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved (circled) Added in 3. (circled)
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1870 Atlas - Mitchell
1898 Atlas - B. J. Litter

Music		Date	Style
Literature		Open to public	
Government		Present owner	
Education		Use: original & present	
Art/Sculpture		Name	
Agriculture		Street address	
Schools			

following themes: (see also reverse side)
Building has historical connection with the

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds